

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 32 with the following

At the current time, a single anti-toxoplasmosis vaccine based on an attenuated strain is commercially available. It is the TOXOVAX vaccine (Schering-Plough), based on live tachyzoites of the S48 strain of *Toxoplasma gondii*. The nature of the mutation responsible for the attenuation of this strain remains unknown.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 19 with the following

The mutations were created by site-directed mutagenesis by PCR (~~Quickchange~~ QUICKCHANGE, Stratagene) of the sequence encoding the mature form of MIC3, contained in the plasmid pOC2 (Cerede et al., 2002, mentioned above).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 30 with the following

The plasmids were purified using the ~~Qiagen kit~~ QIAGEN KIT (Qiagen), and the presence of the expected mutations was verified by sequencing.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 1 with the following

For each plasmid, 3 x 10⁵ BHK-21 cells, cultured beforehand on coverslips for 24 h in 24-well plates, were transfected with the purified plasmid, using ~~Lipofectamine~~ LIPOFECTAMINE, according to the conditions recommended by the manufacturer (Gibco-BRL). The cells were cultured for a further 24 h before analysis.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 1 with the following

EXAMPLE 6: COMPARISON OF THE MIC1-3KO STRAIN AND OF THE S48 STRAIN (TOXOVAX, SCHERING-PLOUGH)